

Fall 2018

# Marshall Magazine Autumn 2018

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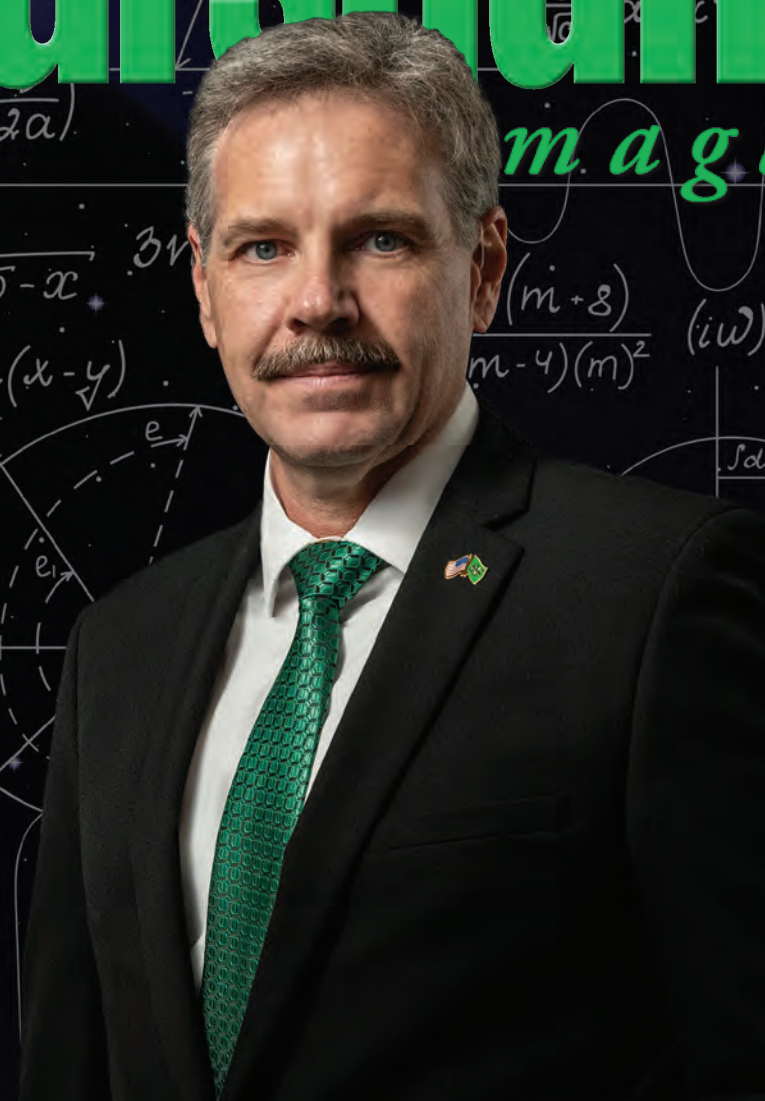
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Randy Moss sprints into the Hall of Fame

# Marshall



magazine



## High Hopes

New Provost Jaime Taylor is a physicist and former NASA Faculty Fellow who is focused on helping Marshall reach lofty new heights.



See page 43 for ALUMNI NEWS and more

Autumn 2018

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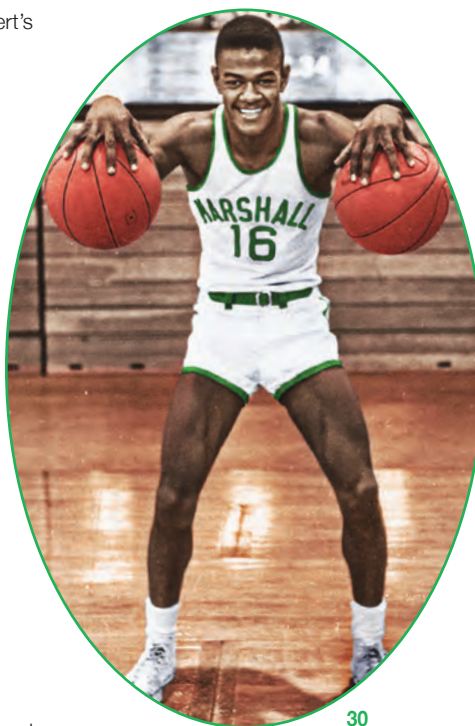
m a g a z i n e

The official magazine of Marshall University

Autumn 2018

## contents

- 4 WITH THE PRESIDENT • Explore some of President Gilbert's spring and summer adventures.
- 6 COVER STORY • Dr. Jaime R. Taylor takes on the role of provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Marshall — a challenge for which he's well prepared.
- 12 ATHLETICS • Former Thundering Herd star Randy Moss becomes only the second football player from Marshall to be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- 18 INTERNSHIPS • Two students got the internship opportunity of a lifetime — teaching snowboarding at a Winter Olympics resort in South Korea.
- 22 INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS • Celebrating and accepting different cultures and lifestyles is an important part of the Marshall Family. See how the Office of Intercultural Affairs is leading this effort.
- 26 ENTERTAINMENT • Actor Joe Chrest has appeared in more than 100 film and television roles, but his most famous may be in the Netflix Original Series *Stranger Things*.
- 30 TRIBUTE • The late Hal Greer was not only the best basketball player in Marshall's history, but the athlete who broke the color line in West Virginia.
- 36 MED SCHOOL • Standing Out in Our Field is a popular event that raises funds for scholarships in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.



22



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YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

- 43 LETTER FROM MAX LEDERER, MUAA PRESIDENT
- 44 81st ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET
- 48 2018 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE
- 50 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: PHILLIP GAMBLE
- 54 CLASS NOTES
- 56 LETTER FROM MUAA

## Marshall

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on the cover

Dr. Jaime R. Taylor now serves as the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Photo by Rick Lee.

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# Spring and Summer with President Gilbert



1. President Gilbert was invited to speak to participants at the National Youth Science Camp July 6. An alumnus of the camp, he is pictured when he attended (second from left with arms folded).

2. President Gilbert joined Cedric Gathings (far left), vice president for student affairs, in presenting the inaugural Spirit of Excellence awards to recognize exceptional student contributions.

3. President Gilbert presented the Dr. Charles E. Hedrick Outstanding Faculty Award for 2017-2018 to Dr. Eldon Larsen, professor of engineering, (center) April 23. At right is Larsen's wife, Susan.

4. President Gilbert and Marshall University hosted the West Virginia NAACP Higher Education Summit March 29. Here he is shown with fellow presidents Dr. Anthony Jenkins, president of West Virginia State University (right); Dr. Marsha V. Krotseng, president of Bluefield State College (second from left); and Dr. Johnny Moore, president of Pierpont Community and Technical College (left).



5. President Gilbert prepares to lead the incoming class of freshmen back to the Huntington campus after the convocation ceremony at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center Aug. 17.





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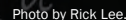
# HIGH HOPES

New Provost Jaime Taylor, a physicist who has worked with NASA and the U.S. Army, is focused on helping Marshall reach lofty new heights.



PHOTO BY ARNOLD HYDE

By James E. Casto





**H**e's been involved with the NASA space program, helped Army researchers design a computer program to identify enemy tanks and has had a long and distinguished academic career. Now Dr. Jaime (pronounced "Hi-me") R. Taylor is Marshall University's new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Taylor comes to Marshall from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, where he was dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

"Jaime Taylor is an outstanding addition to our team at Marshall," said President Jerome A. Gilbert. "He hit the ground running by reaching out to our faculty and other key stakeholders to ascertain our academic strengths and weaknesses. We will use this information to build upon Marshall's tradition of delivering academic excellence. I'm excited he's here."

Taylor served as dean at Austin Peay since 2008, except for 2013 to 2015, when he served as the institution's

interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. Last year, he was on temporary leave from the dean's position to serve as Austin Peay's first Presidential Fellow, conducting research and working directly with the university president on strategy and policy related to Tennessee's formula funding model for higher education.

As dean, Taylor worked with department chairs to add new degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also led initiatives to increase enrollment and improve student success, resulting in a more than doubling of the number of graduates in the college.

While interim provost, he established two programs — an out-of-state scholarship and a guaranteed community college graduate scholarship — that were later replicated by other universities in the state. After the first year of using recruitment strategies put in place while Taylor was interim provost, Austin Peay State University experienced record growth of more than 30 percent in its freshman class.



Taylor helped U.S. Army researchers design a computer program to identify enemy tanks on the battlefield.

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## While Taylor was interim provost, Austin Peay State University experienced record growth of more than 30 percent in its freshman class.

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Prior to his appointment as dean, Taylor chaired the university's Department of Physics and Astronomy from 2000 to 2008.

Growing up, Taylor's father was in the U.S. Air Force, which meant the family bounced around quite a bit. Jaime was born in Spain, and that is how he acquired such a unique first name.

"My mother loved bullfighting, so she named me after a famous bullfighter, Jaime Ostos," he explained. "I was only in Spain for the first three months of my life. When we returned to the states, my father was stationed in North Dakota for one year, then he went to Vietnam. My family, which includes two brothers and a sister, spent that year in Pennsylvania. My father's last posting before he retired from the Air Force was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, which is right outside Clarksville, Tennessee."

Taylor joined the Austin Peay faculty in 1995, after earning a B.S. in physics and mathematics from Austin Peay (1990), and an M.S. (1991) and a Ph.D. (1995) in engineering science from the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

"During my last year of graduate school, Austin Peay Department Chair Robert Sears, who was like a father to me, encouraged me to apply for a position at Austin Peay," Taylor said. "Being a professor was not the direction I was looking for in life at



Kicking off the new school year, Marco and Taylor pose for a quick photo at the annual Herd Rally in Pullman Square.



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“Jaime Taylor is an **outstanding addition** to our team at Marshall. He **hit the ground running** by reaching out to our faculty and other key stakeholders to ascertain our academic **strengths and weaknesses.**”

— President Jerome A. Gilbert

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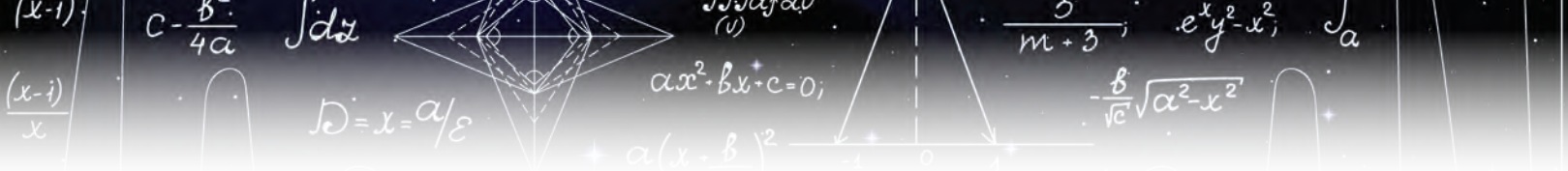
**From left: Marshall Men's Basketball Coach Dan D'Antoni, Dr. Jaime Taylor and Houston Rockets Head Coach and Marshall alumnus Mike D'Antoni.**

the time. I had my eye on working for NASA. But Dr. Sears really turned me on to teaching. I discovered I truly loved working with students. I enjoy taking somebody like me, a rural student, and help expose them to the entire world, and show them that they can compete with anybody in the world.” Taylor’s research interests are in applications of biologically-inspired algorithms or “soft computing” methods such as neural networks, fuzzy systems and genetic algorithms.

In addition to his longtime career at Austin Peay, Taylor was able to realize his dream of being involved with NASA. During the summers of 1996, 1997, 2001 and 2002, he served as a NASA Faculty Fellow at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. College and university professors selected for the elite program have the opportunity to conduct research on site at the Space Flight Center.

Taylor also has conducted research at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.





"I worked with the Army in helping them recognize tanks on the battlefield," he explained. "People working in artificial intelligence started getting interested in what's called 'soft computing,' creating biologically-inspired algorithms that work like the human mind. This became an area I was very interested in."

Taylor said he loved Austin Peay and could never have imagined leaving. "If you had asked me a year ago if I would ever leave there, I would have said 'no way.' But some time ago, I met Dr. Gilbert. I was very impressed by him and started following his career. When I saw there was this opening at Marshall, I decided to take a chance and submit my resume."

Taylor succeeds Dr. Gayle Ormiston, who stepped down in order to go back to being a faculty member in the philosophy department.

The new provost and his wife, Stacy, who have a grown son and daughter, are making their home in downtown Huntington's historic West Virginia Building.

"I feel ridiculously fortunate to be at Marshall University," Taylor said. "President Gilbert has high aspirations for Marshall and the Huntington community, and there are several things he wants to see happen to help make those aspirations a reality. I know he not only wants to grow enrollment but, at the same time, help more students succeed and get their diplomas. The confidence I have that President Gilbert's vision will be realized continues to grow as I learn more about the campus community and the city of Huntington. There are so many good things going on at Marshall, and I'm excited to be part of it." □

**James E. Casto**, retired associate editor of *The Herald-Dispatch*, is the author of a number of books on local and regional history. His latest is *Huntington Chronicles* (The History Press, \$21.99), which offers capsule accounts of many of the noteworthy people, places and events in the city's history.




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Randy Moss was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2018.

Photo courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

# HALL *of* FAMER

*Marshall's own Randy Moss finds football immortality  
after entering the hallowed halls of the  
Pro Football Hall of Fame.*

**By Keith Morehouse**

**R**andy Moss has always known how to make an entrance. It was a Thursday afternoon in August, two days before the NFL Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Canton, Ohio. Fans outside the facility turned toward the sights and sounds of a police escort. As the caravan rolled to a stop, Moss and fellow inductee Ray Lewis hopped out of their luxury SUV in front of a throng of onlookers. Moss then walked through a gauntlet

of number 84 Vikings jerseys and number 81 Patriots jerseys as fans yelled his name from behind the barricades. He then strode into the Hall of Fame for an autograph session.

He had arrived.

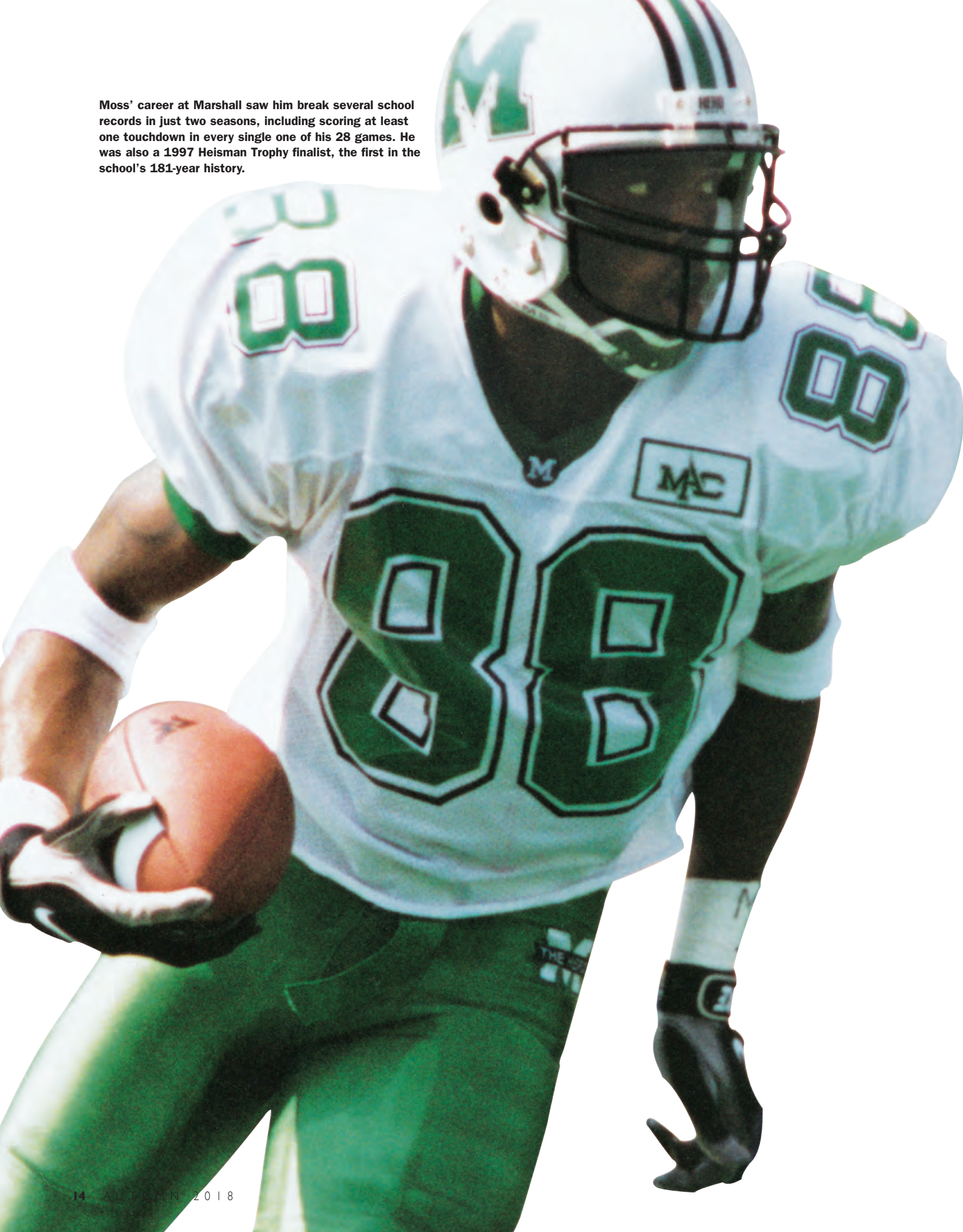
All his life Randy Moss' talents have been mesmerizing. Whether he was hurtling past yard lines or hurdling over defenders, he had an innate gift as an athlete to catch a football and run past defenders with that ball in his hands. Now, after all

those years of gazelle-like exploits on the football field, he can finally catch his breath.

He had found the promised land of professional football. His induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame was a celebration of his whirlwind career. A player who — whether it was at Dupont High School, Marshall University or the NFL — seemed like he played the game in a different stratosphere than most.



Moss' career at Marshall saw him break several school records in just two seasons, including scoring at least one touchdown in every single one of his 28 games. He was also a 1997 Heisman Trophy finalist, the first in the school's 181-year history.



“His speed, his size, his range and his catch radius were phenomenal. He did things on the football field that no one’s ever done before.”

—former Chicago Bears’ linebacker Brian Urlacher

“We put two guys on him every play, that’s how much he changed the game for us,” fellow inductee and former Chicago Bears’ linebacker Brian Urlacher said. “His speed, his size, his range and his catch radius were phenomenal. He did things on the football field that no one’s ever done before.”

It all started just off the hard-scrabble sidewalks of Rand, West Virginia, where Moss, at 6-years-old, began to show his talents. He won the Kennedy Award as West Virginia’s best high school player and, frankly, the plaque only reinforced what everyone in the state already knew. Moss was in a class all his own.

During that senior year there were plenty of weeknight recruiting calls from coaching legends like Lou Holtz, Steve Spurrier and Bobby Bowden. Moss originally committed to Notre Dame, but his application was denied. He would enroll at Florida State and redshirt his freshman year, but later be dismissed after a positive marijuana test.

“A lot of the path that I had to travel — some of the wounds were self-inflicted,” Moss admitted at the Hall of Fame media session. “A lot

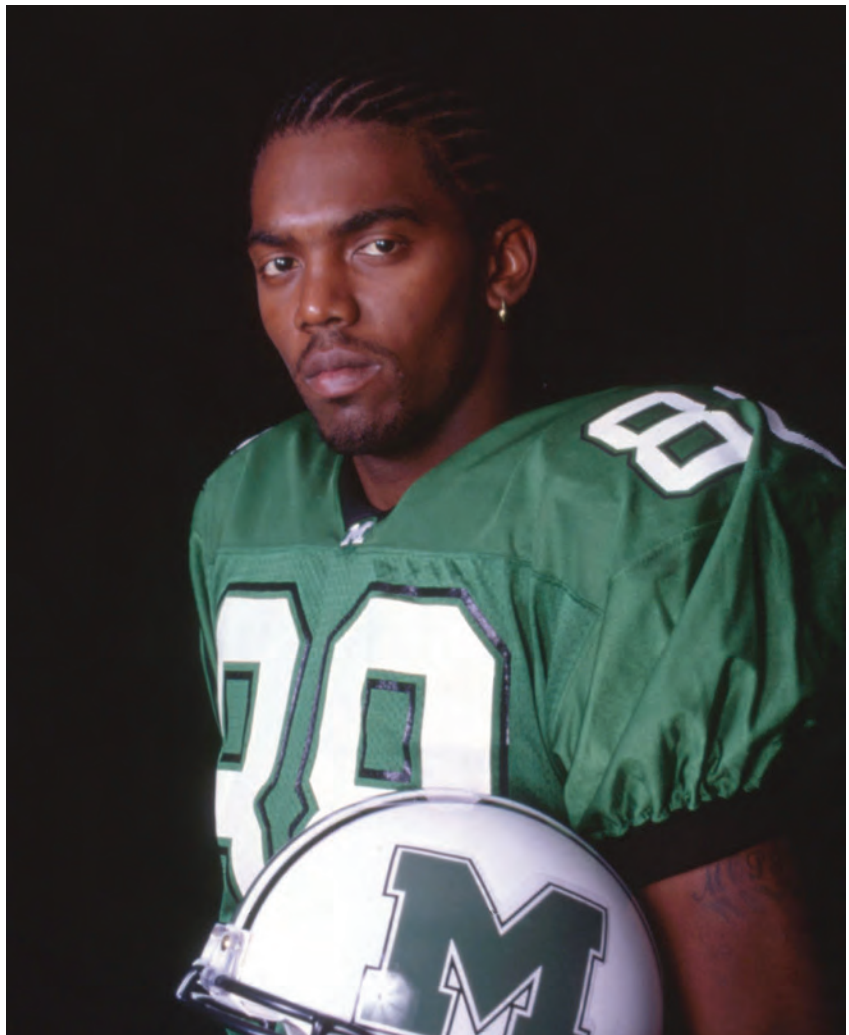


Photo by David E. Fatale.

**Moss helped the Herd to an undefeated season and the I-AA national championship in 1996. The following season Marshall moved up to Division I-A. Moss was able to showcase his talents against tougher competition in 1997, and leap to the NFL.**



of them were immaturity. But hey, man, I wouldn't change it because that's what made me the man I am today."

After those missteps, home-state Marshall University entered the picture.

Bob Pruett said Moss to Marshall "was a natural fit." Pruett was an assistant to Steve Spurrier when the Gators recruited Moss. Then he took the Marshall job in 1996 as the Herd was competing in its

final year of Division I-AA football. Pruett knew Moss could play for the Herd without sitting out a year, and the following season Marshall was moving up to Division I-A. The mercurial Moss could showcase his talents against tougher competition in 1997, and then he could leap to the NFL.

Moss helped Marshall to an undefeated season and the I-AA national championship in 1996. The next year he won the Biletnikoff Award as the

best receiver in college football, and was a Heisman finalist. He scored 54 touchdowns at Marshall in a dizzying array of gravity-defying highlights. And he helped make Marshall football a nationally recognized brand.

No one knew that better than Pruett.

"If somebody in Utah or Kansas or California asked us where we were from and we said, 'Marshall,' most of them would give us a blank stare," Pruett explained. "But when we said,



**Moss played seven consecutive seasons with the Minnesota Vikings, before being traded to the Oakland Raiders in 2005. Moss' 14-season NFL career also included appearances on the New England Patriots, Tennessee Titans and San Francisco 49ers.**



‘Randy Moss played for us,’ they would perk up and say, ‘Oh, Randy Moss!’ That’s what I mean when I say he put us on the national map.”

Moss’ off-field persona and the way he played the game couldn’t have been more different. Away from football he was guarded, private and wary of those outside his inner circle. On the field, his ability to ad lib, to outrun and out jump defenders, became legendary. The football field was his playground and his sanctuary, at the same time.

“The only time I could feel free to go out there and enjoy myself was between the lines,” Moss said. “Where I felt most free was in between the white lines. That’s just something you’ve heard me say time and time again — that I love the game.”

Moss’ son Thaddeus introduced him at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. That gold jacket and bronze bust are symbolic of the highest honor in the game. He became only the sixth wide receiver ever to be a first-ballot inductee, and the first since Jerry Rice. His 156 touchdown catches rank second all-time to Rice.

The very next day after his induction, Moss was back in his home state signing autographs at the Town Center Mall in Charleston. That was one of the few times that Moss announced ahead of time his willingness to give back. In the past, he made sure his charity efforts went unnoticed. For him, it was about helping those in need, not shining the spotlight on himself.

“I’ve never felt that I needed to be the one to broadcast what I’m doing,” Moss said. “It’s kind of like I always wanted to put smiles on people’s faces and I didn’t need this (motions to cameras and reporters) to be able to do it. A gentle handshake, a hug, a thank you meant a lot to me.”



**Moss said the only time he could feel free to enjoy himself was when he was “in between the white lines.”**

With that he hinted at bringing a special event to Huntington next summer, emphatically emphasized as he recognized the reporter at the other end of the microphone.

“Hey, I’ve got something coming this summer,” Moss told the reporter. “And remember I told you, you hear me?”

Whatever it is, it will have to be in June or July because he’s booked for early August when Canton beckons again. That’s reserved for his

now-annual Hall of Fame class reunion, and Randy Moss will no doubt remember the dress code.

Gold jacket required. □

**Keith Morehouse** is the sports director at WSAZ NewsChannel 3 in Huntington. He is a two-time Emmy winner and the recipient of the West Virginia Sportscaster of the Year award in 1999, 2007 and 2012. He graduated from Marshall in 1983 with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism.



# COOL DEAL

Two lucky snowboarders in the College of Health Professions reflect on their internships at the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.

**T**he 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, provided a venue for many exciting and historic moments. Shaun White became the first snowboarder to win three Olympic golds after a near perfect final run in the halfpipe event; fellow American Chloe Kim became the youngest woman to win an Olympic snowboarding medal at 17-years-old; and Czech snowboarder Ester Ledecka became the first person, man or woman, to win two gold medals at the same Winter Olympics using two different types of equipment when she raced to victory in the super-G in alpine skiing and the parallel giant slalom in snowboarding.

During these historic events, two Marshall University students were also making an impact in South Korea. Kade Sebastian of Huntington and Takuya Endo of Osaka, Japan, interned in PyeongChang as snowboarding instructors. While White, Kim and Ledecka were winning gold,

By Shane Arrington









the sports management majors trained snowboarders from all over the world at the YongPyong Resort as part of their three-month-long internship. The partnership between Marshall and YongPyong is the first collaboration of its kind between the resort and an American university, according to Professor Wanyong Choi, former director of the university's Sport Data Analysis Center.

"Obviously it is an understatement to say it was an amazing opportunity," Sebastian said. "I mean, we taught snowboarding at one of the resorts that actually hosted Olympic events. We were very busy — when we weren't teaching we were studying because we were still taking classes. During the rare times we had time off I mostly caught up on my sleep and just relaxed."

That doesn't mean there wasn't any fun to be had. Sebastian said he and Endo did get to see some Olympic events, though sadly the tickets to the more popular events were too pricey for them.

"Still, considering that most people don't get the opportunity to see any Olympic events, we definitely weren't complaining," Sebastian said.

The Olympics made an amazing backdrop for their internship, but Endo said the lessons learned from working in an international resort coupled with meeting people from all over the world were the most rewarding experiences

**"I mean seriously, I'm going to be able to say I interned at the Olympics on my resume. That's going to look good."**

**— Kade Sebastian**

he brought back from South Korea. The junior said he plans to run his own sports marketing business one day, and contacts obtained from a prestigious internship like this one are invaluable.

And like Sebastian, Endo loved the job itself as well. He said he was able to work with many athletes, and even with all the fun and exploration

of South Korea, his most exciting moments were working with his students and watching them improving their snowboarding skills.

"One of my students was from South Korea, and he took me to Seoul, the nation's capital, and showed me a good time," Endo said. "The opportunities to broaden my international mindset were so many that I honestly didn't even have to leave my dorm. I shared a room with three guys from Scotland, France and the United States. Every day was fun and valuable since we could share our cultures."

An internship like this can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Prime internships are rare enough, but ones during an international sporting event that takes place once every four years are the rarest. Neither Sebastian nor Endo have lost sight of that fact. Both said they will be forever grateful to Marshall for the opportunity.

"Marshall is my hometown school," Sebastian said. "Being able to go overseas and be an



**Endo (left) and Sebastian (right) earned six college credits with this internship and were able to complete their other spring semester courses online.**



**The internship, which began in December, allowed the students to attend a few Olympic events and connect with people from around the world.**

ambassador not only for the United States, but also the Thundering Herd, was an experience I will always treasure.”

Endo was equally complimentary of the university.

“Marshall not only gave me the chance to live and study in another country, but then afforded me the opportunity to live and study in yet another country,” Endo explained.

Dr. Michael Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, who also traveled to PyeongChang, said the experience will shape the students’ careers forever. He said having insight into the cultural differences within the world of sport management will open many doors.

Doors Sebastian said he can’t wait to walk through. At only 19-years-old, he still has a few years left at Marshall, but he said that’s what makes this experience even more special.

“To have this opportunity so early is amazing,” Sebastian said. “I know I’ll be lucky to do something on



**Dr. Michael Prewitt, dean of College of Health Professions.**

this level again while at Marshall, but I also wouldn’t be surprised if the college provides more opportunities while I’m here. I know I’ll be more prepared for my career thanks to this. I mean seriously, I’m going to be able to say I interned at the Olympics on my resume. That’s going to look good.”

Months removed from their Winter Olympics experience, both students are now back in the full swing of things as a new fall semester is underway at Marshall. It may lack the excitement of studying and teaching snowboarding at an international resort, but both seemed pretty content to slow things down a bit.

But, as the heat of summer begins to fade and the cool temperatures of fall and winter start to slowly make their way to West Virginia, neither have to wait too much longer to enjoy a break on the slopes. □

**Shane Arrington** is a freelance writer living in South Point, Ohio.

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# EMBRACING DIVERSITY



The Office of Intercultural Affairs is committed to building a welcoming university that supports diversity, equality and inclusion.

By Carter Taylor Seaton

In the mid-1980s, when Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley first created an office to serve the multicultural environment at Marshall, it was known as the Office of Multicultural Affairs. In 2013, when Maurice Cooley became its associate vice president, the office title was changed to Intercultural Affairs. Cooley notes that it's an important distinction.

"It's a different philosophy and a stronger commitment to the work necessary for people from all over the globe who are trying to live and embrace one another," Cooley explained. "Instead of simply making people aware of the multiplicity of cultures on campus, we want to find ways to encourage students to grow and learn from each other. Programs with that focus make it easier to embrace those who are different."

His first move was to make his office staff multiethnic. Traditionally, it was staffed by all African Americans. By moving two of his eight graduate student staffers to the Center for African American Students, which is one of four offices he supervises, he was able to bring in students from China, Ukraine, Russia and India.

Another one of his responsibilities is a National Science Foundation (NSF) Initiative through which Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) grants are awarded to a consortium of universities working to support minority undergraduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors. Marshall's 10-year membership has allowed students to do research at other institutions in the group. An extension of this program, called Bridge to the Doctorate, allows students the opportunity to earn their doctoral degrees at no cost at universities around the country.

An initiative Cooley began

in 2015 is the World Council. He wanted to create learning and social experiences that would have a significant impact on the participants. He turned to some of the international students who began to set up events to encourage representatives from many countries to socialize in order to get to know one another better. One event, called Campus Tea and Talk, acted a bit like speed dating, except each table had 20 minutes before switching tables. With each rotation, students enjoyed teas and hors d'oeuvres from around the world while getting to know those at their table.

In the spring, World Fusion Day, another World Council event, gathers people from various ethnicities or religions to enjoy foods and dancing from all over the world.

"Students from the university's clubs, organizations, athletic teams, Greek sororities and fraternities, and faculty unite to celebrate their own organizations before they walk together as a giant parade," Cooley said. "Last year over 1,000 members of the Marshall Family participated in the parade and picnic that followed."

The Society of Black Scholars, developed in 2003 when Cooley first came to Marshall, is a highly competitive honors program for incoming black freshmen with extremely high GPAs and ACT scores. An advisory council of students interviews and selects those accepted. Cooley said 12 new members were inducted this fall. The society requires students to maintain a high GPA, to attend certain programs geared to expose them to things relevant to their



**Cooley joined the staff of Marshall University in 2003. His current role in the Office of Intercultural Affairs allows him to interact with and guide students from a variety of backgrounds.**

field of study and participate in academic advising.

The third office Cooley supervises serves the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transitioning, questioning and others (LGBTQ+) community. Headed by one of his four full-time employees, Shaunte Polk, it is located on the lower level of the Memorial Student Center. Polk, a Marshall graduate herself, oversees a number of initiatives and programs, some of which she created.

"One example is the Trans Closet, which is a place where students who are transitioning gender can select clothing, jewelry, shoes or makeup in a safe space that allows them to shop away from potential derision," Polk explained. "We also have a lending library of books on subjects within the LGBTQ+ community that are free and available in the LGBTQ+ office."

Support for LGBTQ+ students is an important element of the office. Polk has established three such groups. The first is called Queer to Slay—a term made popular by singer Beyoncé that means being queer and fabulous. It is a student-led group that meets to talk about issues that concern them. Out of that group, one for trans students was born. Called

Photo by Rick Lee.





**World Fusion Day began in 2016 and features music, food, art and activities from cultures around the world.**

Trans-lation, it deals specifically with discussions on trans issues. A third group, Slaying Grace, is for students who are no longer welcome at their home churches or have lost their faith because of discrimination. Led by the Reverend Chris Bailey, it meets at the Campus Christian Center to provide an accepting church home on campus.

Celebrations are also important, Polk believes. While the university has held a Donning of the Kente Service for African-American students for a number of years, she realized there was no

equivalent graduation for LGBTQ+ students. So, she created Lavender Graduation. Last year, 14 students wore lavender stoles and cords as

they crossed a stage at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, beautifully decorated in lavender by Jamez Morris-Smith.



**Whether it's at an organized event or casually on campus, Cooley said he is happy when people come together and find they have much in common.**

Several other events are held in October, which is LGBTQ+ History Month. On National Coming Out Day, Polk asks the students to support coming out students with words of affirmation posted on a fake closet door on the student center plaza. On Spirit Day students take a pledge to stand up against bullying and to wear purple to draw attention to that issue. Asexual Awareness

**"MY GOAL IS FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY TO BE A PLACE FREE FROM ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION, A PLACE WHERE ALL PEOPLE FEEL WELCOME AND ALL OPINIONS ARE RESPECTED."**

**— PRESIDENT JEROME GILBERT**

Week and Intersexual Awareness Day bring awareness to these two specialties within the LGBTQ+ communities. And the Pride Gala, held during Homecoming, is planned to be a reunion of LGBTQ+ alumni and a fundraiser for an LGBTQ+ scholarship.

Not ones to rest on their laurels, both Polk and Cooley have plans for the future growth in the Office of Intercultural Affairs. Polk wants to add more speakers to her support group meetings and to several events. Cooley says while over 2,000 students regularly take advantage of some program he oversees, he'd like it to be more. And he'd like a larger staff to manage the growth. Regardless of the reach of his office, Cooley is happy when people come together and find they have much in common.

"That leads to integrated thinking and an appreciation of other people," Cooley says. "If 2,000 of Marshall's 14,000 students can achieve this, the university is well on the way to becoming a diversely integrated institution."

The Office of Intercultural Affairs also has the unwavering support of the university's president.

"My personal commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion runs strong and deep. It is important for an educational institution to convey to its constituents the values that we would hope all would embrace," President Gilbert stated. "By affirming our strong stance in support of diversity, equality and inclusion, we are seeking to create a rich learning environment. My goal is for Marshall University to be a place free from all forms of discrimination, a place where all people feel welcome and all opinions are respected." □

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**Carter Taylor Seaton**

is a freelance writer living in Huntington. She is the author of two novels and the nonfiction book, *Hippie Homesteaders*. She received the 2014 Literary Merit Award from the West Virginia Library Association, the Marshall University College of Liberal Arts

Distinguished Alumna Award in 2015 and the Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts in 2016. Her biography of Ken Hechler, *The Rebel in the Red Jeep*, was published in May 2017.



**Gretel Toloza Albarez is a junior from Cuba who is studying chemistry and Spanish. She currently serves as a work study student in the Office of Intercultural Affairs and is the president of the Intercultural Hispanic Student Organization.**



## Actor Joe Chrest, who stars in *Stranger Things* on Netflix, has found success in Hollywood playing more than 100 roles.

Chances are you've seen this actor before. It might have been on such television shows as *Law and Order*, *Family Matters*, *Columbo*, *Chicago Hope*, *CSI*, *One Tree Hill*, *Star Trek: Enterprise*, *True Detective* or *Nashville*. It could have been in such movies as *The Pelican Brief*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Runaway Jury*, *The Blind Side*, *Secretariat*, *The Campaign* or *Ant-Man*. And, most recently, you might have seen him in Netflix's hugely popular original series *Stranger Things*. Meet Joe Chrest, one of the Marshall School of Theatre's most prolific exports. From gracing the stage of the former Old Main Theatre to hitting the big screen in more than 100 television and movie appearances, Chrest has made quite a career out of small roles.

He began acting his senior year at St. Albans High School where he also played football, basketball and golf. He attended Marshall from 1981 to 1986 and recently recalled his most memorable class.

"I was a freshman and it was my first acting class. Most of the heavyweight actors that were there at the time ended up being mentors to me throughout my time at Marshall," Chrest said.

Chrest's favorite professor at Marshall was Dr. N.B. East, who he said embodied Marshall Theatre.

"He was such a character, such a presence, so idiosyncratic. Every actor has a Jack Nicholson or Christopher Walken impression, and every single person who passed through Marshall Theatre had a N.B. East impression," Chrest recalled.

One of his fondest memories at Marshall took place during his freshman year. Chrest, a self-professed night owl, had sneaked into the Old Main Theatre at 2:30 a.m. to rehearse lines for an upcoming play. It was something he did often. He remembers walking to the middle of the stage and looking out into the empty auditorium. He stood there silently, took a deep breath and then proclaimed, "To be or not to be." Suddenly a voice from the balcony bellowed, "If you're going to say something on that stage, it better be worthy." A shocked Chrest looked up and found fellow classmate Craig Johnson laughing. Interestingly, Johnson would go on to become the best-selling

author of the *Longmire* series, which expanded into a hit television crime drama.

Chrest earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in directing from Marshall in 1986, while concurrently serving in the West Virginia Air National Guard from 1983 to 1987. During his service, he received an award for expert marksmanship. He then earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from Louisiana State University in 1989, where he now teaches occasionally as an adjunct professor of film and television.

At the end of 1989, Chrest packed his bags and headed to Los Angeles with aspirations of being paid to do the work he loves. Fortunately for him, those dreams were quickly realized by Hollywood standards. Just one year later, Chrest was making a living solely as a professional actor.

"You see a lot of really talented people come and go.



(Opposite) Chrest poses with his 2016 Screen Actors Guild Award for his work in *Stranger Things*. The cast won for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series.



# NO STRANGER to SUCCESS

By Kasey Madden



It's a tough business and that's where my sports upbringing and military service comes in handy," Chrest said. "You have to have that toughness. You must have the soul of the poet and the skin of the alligator to make it in this business."

While he isn't known for being a star — he can still go to the grocery store without being recognized by most — Chrest continues to make a long-standing career out of small roles, something he's proud of.

"My passion today for the art of acting is stronger than ever. I continue to take pride in the craft because it would be easy just to phone in some of these roles."

In Hollywood he is known for being nearly unrecognizable in many of his roles. A bio of the actor says Chrest "continues the chameleon-like range of early performances to the widely different characters of recent films — from the steely quiet sharpshooter, Mitchell, in *Mockingjay Part 2*

**"I still think my favorite part to play is the villain because I'm just a pretty average guy in real life. It's fun to tap into that dark side."**

**— Joe Chrest**

artist at heart. But, fortunately I've continued to be hired," Chrest said.

He said he's proud of the longevity of his career of small roles, as they've led to a filmography of over 100 titles, and more than 60 plays and musicals.

"It's a very subjective business — you never know what they're going to be looking for. You just don't have a lot of control about the way things are going to turn out.

to Jonah Hill's nerdy dad, David Schmidt, in *21 Jump Street* to the despicable Southern aristocrat, James Eakins, in *Free State of Jones*."

Chrest noted that one of his favorite quotes is by renowned Russian theatre practitioner Konstantin Stanislavski, who once said, "Love the art in yourself and not yourself in the art."

"That axiom has affected my perspective on my acting career. Whether I was hired or not, I've always known that I would still be an



Chrest (as worried father Ted Wheeler) with Cara Buono (as Ted's wife, Karen) act in Netflix's hit series, *Stranger Things*.

What you do have absolute control of, every day when you wake up, are the two most important things – your work ethic and your attitude.”

Chrest’s first significant role in film was as an antagonist bellhop who terrorized the main character in Steven Soderbergh’s 1993 film, *King of the Hill*. After that movie came out Chrest said he was often cast as the antagonist.

“You get typecast in your career, but I still think my favorite part to play is the villain because I’m just a pretty average guy in real life. It’s fun to tap into that dark side.”

These days, you can find Chrest playing a lot of father roles. He played a father in the two *Jump Street* films and he plays a father in two more movies slated for release later this year. However, the father character he is best known for is his current role as Ted Wheeler on the Netflix Original Series *Stranger Things*. Chrest plays a lackadaisical dad who appears in 12 of the 17 currently released episodes of the series. A father of two himself, Chrest said he relates to his character in how he provides for his family, but not his parenting style.

“Unlike my character, when my kids want to go out to play I always make sure to join them. I don’t think Ted would. He would stay inside and fall asleep in front of the TV. Being a real-life father is awesome, but extremely expensive. I get to play these father roles and get paid for it. It’s a nice turnaround.”

The series, which debuted in July 2016, has been a huge hit. The first episode of the second season had 15 million viewers in the United States in the first three days of its release.

“One thing I love about *Stranger*



**Chrest playing Corporal Clive Winton in Marshall Theatre’s 1985 production *See How They Run* with classmate Shelley Ramsey as Penelope Toop.**



**Chrest as James Eakins in the 2016 film *Free State of Jones* which starred Matthew McConaughey.**



**Joe Chrest is interviewed at the 2016 premiere of *Killing Reagan*, a look at the 1981 assassination attempt against U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Chrest plays Jerry Parr, one of the Secret Service agents protecting President Reagan on that day.**

*Things* is it brings pleasure to so many people – kids and adults alike.”

But Chrest said his favorite part of being on *Stranger Things* is the people he gets to work with including the cast, producers and the show’s creators – the Duffer Brothers.

“The show is produced and directed so efficiently. They get you in and out of there quickly. It’s ironic because, unlike most shows, you don’t want to leave the set because it’s really great hanging out with these people.”

In fact, the camaraderie between the cast is so great that in 2016 they won a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series.

Chrest is married to choreographer Christine Chrest and the couple have two children, Nicolas and Samantha. He was back in West Virginia this past summer when he was inducted into his high school’s Hall of Fame. He said he had a wonderful time catching up with his college roommate, Dan Henthorn, where the duo enjoyed whitewater rafting in Fayetteville and a meal at Jim’s Spaghetti in Huntington.

“There’s just such a brotherhood that lasts all these years later,” Chrest said. “I’m proud of my roots in West Virginia and my years at Marshall University.”

Production for *Stranger Things* season 3 began in April 2018 and is set to release in summer 2019. Until then, keep looking for Chrest on television and the silver screen. We don’t expect him to be sneaking into Old Main in the middle of the night any time soon. □

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**Kasey Madden** is the managing editor of the *Marshall Magazine*.



# HAL GREER

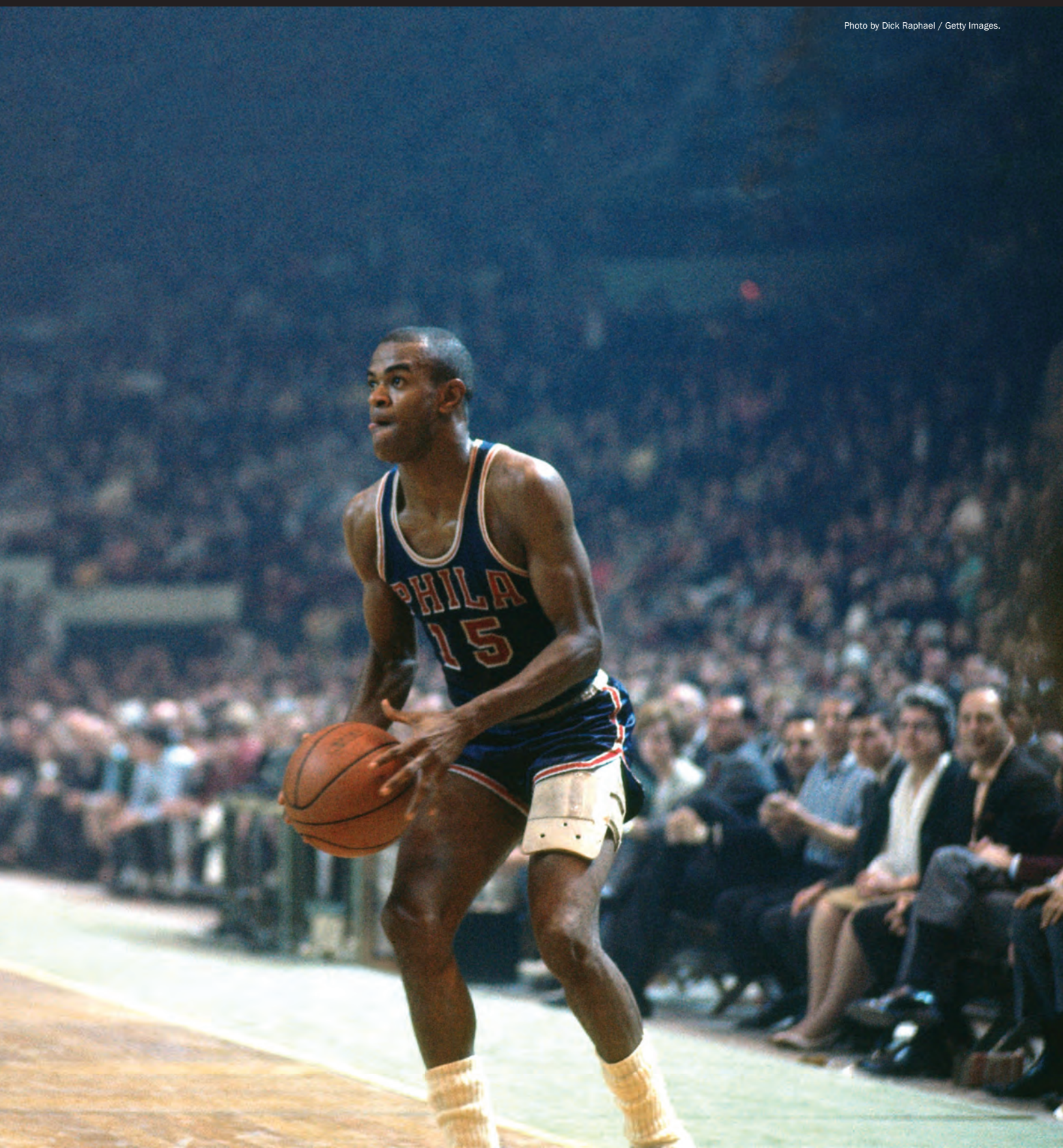
(1936 – 2018)

He was Marshall's  
greatest basketball player,  
but he was also a pioneer  
who broke the color line in  
West Virginia and paved  
the way for future generations.

By Dan D'Antoni







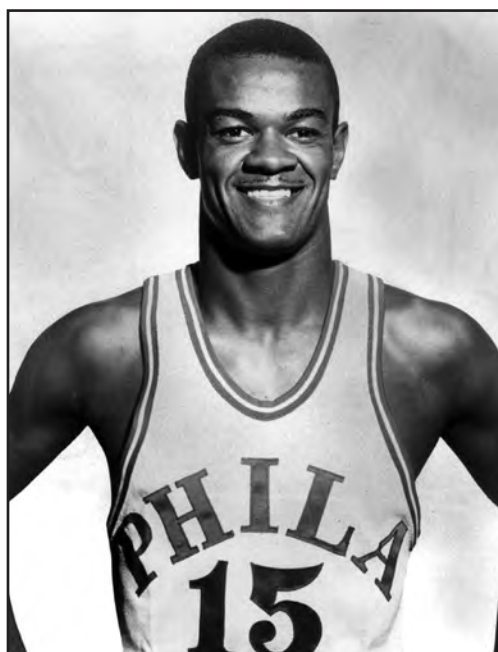


Hal Greer is a name synonymous with Huntington, Marshall University and the NBA. A member of the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, he is easily the most decorated basketball player in the Thundering Herd's heralded history. On April 14, 2018, this true Son of Marshall passed away. He was 81. He is survived by his wife, Mayme, a son and two daughters.

When I think about the life of Hal Greer, two things come to mind. The first is Greer the athlete. The second, and even more important in my opinion, is Greer the pioneer. But, let's start with his memorable basketball career.

Greer, a 6'2" guard, played three outstanding seasons for Marshall (the NCAA did not permit freshmen to play varsity sports until 1972), where he had 1,377 points and a 19.4 scoring average in only 71 games — far short of today's lengthy schedules. Greer's finest season was his last, in

## WHEN GREER ACCEPTED A SCHOLARSHIP TO MARSHALL, HE BECAME THE FIRST BLACK ATHLETE TO PLAY FOR A MAJOR COLLEGE IN THE STATE.



which he had a 23.6 scoring average, which placed him 17th in the nation. When he ran off the court for the final time, he fell into Coach Jule Rivlin's arms and the two shared an emotional embrace. It was one of the few times that the typically reserved young man showed emotion. The capacity crowd in the Memorial Field House rose to their feet to give Greer an inspiring 10-minute ovation.

He was the nation's fifth best "sharpshooter" with a

54.6 field goal percentage, and his free-throw shooting percentage of 83.3 put him at No. 14 in the nation. These numbers were enough to earn him consensus All-American honors behind such NBA legends as Jerry West, Oscar Robertson and Wilt Chamberlain.

Greer was selected in the second round of the NBA draft by the Syracuse Nationals, which later became the Philadelphia 76ers. He played for the same franchise for all of his 15 seasons, averaged 19.2 points per game and became only the sixth man in league history to

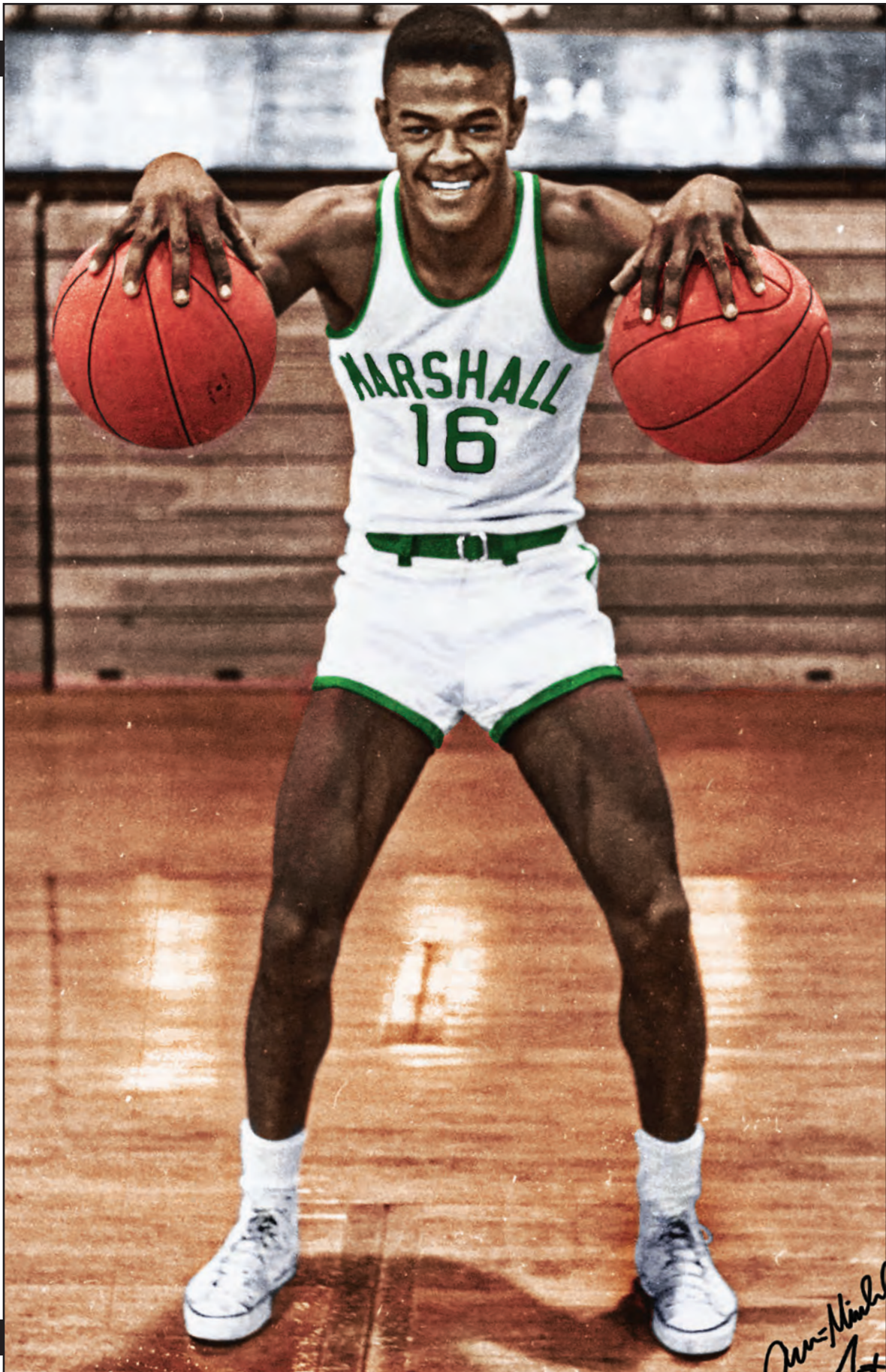


Photo courtesy of and colorized by Aaron-Michael Fox.



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“I FOUND THAT THE MORE  
FAMILIAR TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE  
ARE WITH EACH OTHER, THE MORE  
TENSIONS FADE AND THE  
MORE PEOPLE ARE ACCEPTED.”

— DAN D'ANTONI

score more than 20,000 points. What's more, he earned an NBA championship ring in 1967 and was voted the most valuable player of the All-Star Game in 1968. He even has a street named after him in Huntington. Not a bad resume.

Now let's talk about Greer the pioneer. Harold Greer grew up in Huntington in an era of segregation and played basketball for Douglass High School. Following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1954 that struck down school segregation, he was recruited to play basketball by another legend — Coach Cam Henderson. Ironically, Greer never played for Henderson. Instead, he was coached



by Cam's successor and protégé, Jule Rivlin. When Greer accepted a scholarship to Marshall, he became the first black athlete to play for a major college in the state.

History credits him with breaking the color line in West Virginia.

The late local sports writer Ernie Salvatore once wrote, "The journey wasn't easy for Hal. They seldom are when one is a social trailblazer."

While his teammates and fellow students at Marshall were quick to welcome him, he wasn't made to feel welcome in other places. Before a game in nearby Charleston, Coach Rivlin walked into a restaurant where the team had reservations only to return moments later looking upset.

The team moved on in search of somewhere else to eat. Nothing was said, but Greer knew why they were turned away. In another incident in West Virginia, a motel clerk refused to let Greer register. Upon hearing this, Rivlin threatened to call the governor and the newspapers. Who knows how many more incidents like this took place during his four years at Marshall. But, Greer handled it all with grace. By all accounts he was a quiet, polite, reserved young man who stayed to himself much of the time.

Looking back, I realize that it was because of Greer and the door he opened that I was able to play alongside some gifted black athletes during my four years at Marshall. George Stone, another of the greatest players to ever wear a Thundering Herd jersey, was my teammate, roommate and friend. He invited me to his hometown of Covington, Kentucky, to meet his family and play ball with his friends. It was during those pickup games on an all-black playground that I got a small sense of how Hal must have felt. I was an outsider and sensed that I wasn't welcome. But, George always had my back and the more we played the more the tension disappeared. I benefited both athletically and socially from being in that environment.

In college, I witnessed racism directed towards George and the other black players on our team. During a trip to Florida, we encountered some

good ol' boys at our motel who made some comments they shouldn't have. A fight broke out and our team, both black and white, certainly met the challenge. That brawl was a way for the white players to stand up for our black teammates.

Reflecting on my years at Marshall in the late 1960s, the whole issue of race seemed pretty simple to me. I found that the more familiar two groups of people are with each other, the more tensions fade and the more people are accepted.

Today, I am married to a black woman and we have a teenage daughter. No matter where my career as a coach has taken us as a family, we

have always been made to feel accepted in both the white and black communities. From my friendship with George Stone at Marshall, to the players I coached over the years, to my wife and daughter, my life has been positively impacted by pioneers like Hal Greer. If not for the path he helped pave, my life would never have been as rich. □

**Dan D'Antoni** is the head coach of Marshall men's basketball program. He is also a former star point guard for the Thundering Herd (1966-1970) and a member of the Marshall University Athletics Hall of Fame.

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# STANDING FOR



The annual **Standing Out in Our Field** event is a great time for an even greater cause – funding scholarships for our medical school students.



# SOMETHING

By Michelle Goodman





If you were to ask Linda Holmes how she pulls off the annual Standing Out in Our Field fundraiser every year, she'd likely say, "It takes a village."

"Without the community volunteers to bring in sponsors and attendees, and to help plan every detail of the event, we wouldn't be able to do it. These people are so critical," Holmes said.

And from the very first event in 2014, the village, as it were, has come together to raise more than \$500,000 for academic scholarships over the past five years.

Holmes, the director of development and alumni affairs for the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, along with then third-year medical student, Steven Nakano, came up with the idea for Standing Out in Our Field in 2013.

Nakano, a neurologist who is currently doing a movement disorder fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital, found himself in medical school after graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in 2005, which he followed by earning his bachelor's degree and working as a research assistant for Rocky Mount Poison and Drug Center. It was there he worked with Marshall medical school alumnus Dr. Ray Kim, Class of 2000, who encouraged him to investigate Marshall's program.

During his third year of medical school at Marshall, Nakano approached Holmes about a fundraiser combining his love for food with the free labor of the medical student community.

"The original idea was to auction off a



**Linda Holmes helped turn the idea for a small dinner fundraiser to an event over 500 people attend each year.**

dinner party at the dean's home — a dinner for 10 prepared and catered by medical school students," Nakano said. "Linda Holmes, with a vision and gusto that I could never muster, turned a small, private dinner party into the spectacle that it is today."

And so, the idea for a dinner for 10 turned into a social event to remember with more than 125 people attending the first "Standing Out in Our Field" fundraiser. Dr. Bobby and Eric Hardin-Miller donated the use of their 10-acre farm in Proctorville, Ohio, for the affair.

Miller, Class of 1997, is the vice dean of medical education at the medical school as well as a neonatologist. He also completed his undergraduate studies and residency at Marshall.

"Marshall has been good to us and we love giving back," Miller said.

The couple has offered the use of their farm every year since the inaugural event.

This year's theme was a Western Round Up and previous events have featured Brazilian, Jamaican and farm-to-table themes, with live music from Santa Cruz and northeastern Ohio group The Jillettes, featuring Dr. Donnah Wolodkin Whitaker, Class of 1984.

Not only did the first year draw a sizeable crowd and raise \$80,000 for the Scholarship Campaign Endowment at the medical school, but Holmes said the event raised awareness and allowed guests to meet the medical students they were helping.

"We felt like it would bring attention to the medical school and allow people to meet these



**Samantha Smith, above, and other Marshall University medical students helped serve dinner at the fifth annual event.**

hard-working students,” Holmes said. “We also hoped they would realize that being a sponsor and attending the event was helping us provide scholarships for the students who, unfortunately, are leaving medical school with a six-figure debt. We are doing everything we can to provide more scholarships so our graduates don’t feel like they have this huge financial burden on their shoulders.”

Aside from raising money that first year, Nakano said he remembered how the community came together to make it a success. He said it epitomized his experience at Marshall.

“Standing Out in Our Field extends far beyond the money that it brings in to support medical student education in Huntington,” Nakano said. “The community that makes Marshall special shines brightest under a big white tent, out in the country, under the stars, amongst good food, friends and music.”

From that inaugural event, Standing Out in Our Field has continued to grow in size and support. Holmes said that attendance has quadrupled since 2014 to more than 500 guests, thanks in large measure to dynamic community leaders like past co-chair Terry Deppner Hardin.

“This event is essential to the sustained growth of the medical school, and it is



**Chefs for this year's event included Cabell Huntington Hospital President and CEO Kevin Fowler, School of Medicine Dean Dr. Joseph Shapiro and Cabell Huntington Hospital Executive Chef Don Sallada.**

truly a collaboration of community, student and alumni support,” Hardin said. “It has given me a wonderful opportunity to work with people like Julie and Jimmy Todd of Galaxy Distributing, who have been generous supporters since day one. There is a host of other dedicated people from the community who have worked tirelessly to make this event a success.”

Hardin said she has been motivated by one simple thing. “I truly believe in the School of Medicine’s mission of producing primary care doctors to care for the people of Appalachia,” Hardin noted. “The money we raise allows them to begin their careers without incurring a staggering amount of student loan debt.”

It takes 35 to 45 medical student volunteers to serve as waitstaff each year. Holmes said Karl Shaver, now a fourth-year med student and class president, has taken the reins to gather up his fellow classmates to volunteer at the event.

“He has worked every year,” Holmes said. “He really believes in it, and he loves doing it.”

Holmes said sponsorships also drive the event and keep it growing from year to year. She said Kevin Fowler and Mike Sellards, presidents and CEOs of Cabell Huntington Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center, respectively, have been huge supporters from the start.

“Huntington’s two



**With their outstanding vocal harmonies and high energy, live music was provided by Santa Cruz Band.**



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**“One of the major economic engines in Huntington is Marshall University, along with the School of Medicine and Marshall Health.**

**It only behooves folks to want to see us succeed.”**

**— Linda Holmes**

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hospitals believed in this fundraiser from the beginning,” she said. “They have been our major sponsors every year. They are game changers.”

Co-chairs also play an important role in getting the word out about each year’s event, recruiting sponsors and bring awareness to a top-notch medical school.

Dr. Peter Chirico, senior partner at Radiology Incorporated and professor and chair of the department of radiology at Marshall’s medical school, helped chair the 2018 event along with his wife, Clare. Radiology Incorporated has also been a sponsor from the beginning.

“Standing Out in Our Field is a wonderful way to show appreciation for all the outstanding physicians not only in the medical school, but throughout the community as well,” Chirico said. “I believe the students benefit financially from the fundraising, but they also feel they are an integral part in making their school the excellent institution that it is. We



This year's theme was “Western Round Up,” and guests were encouraged to dress in their best western wear.





In the past five years, the supporters of the event have given over \$500,000 to support medical student scholarships.



**Dr. Andrea M. Lauffer ('10)** hits the dance floor to enjoy one of the best parts of the evening.

are blessed to have this medical school in our community. Many of our graduates stay in the Tri-State and serve the people of this region.”

Holmes certainly agrees.

“One of the major economic engines in Huntington is Marshall University, along with the School of Medicine and Marshall Health,” Holmes explained. “We are so interwoven into the fabric of the community, it only behooves folks to want to see us succeed. And this annual fundraiser is one way they can help aspiring physicians on their journey.”

Those interested in being a sponsor for Standing Out in Our Field or volunteering can contact Holmes at 304-691-1711 or [holmes@marshall.edu](mailto:holmes@marshall.edu).

“Every year has grown and become more successful,” Holmes said. “A great time, a great cause and a great location. Those have been the three ingredients that make this annual event a winner.” □

**Michelle Goodman** is a freelance writer living in Huntington, West Virginia.



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# **everGreen** YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

## A MESSAGE FROM MAX LEDERER

*MUAA National President*



The 2018-2019 school year is underway. The school year brings many opportunities for alumni to connect with the university and share with each other the wonderful experience of attending Marshall University.

One way to stay connected with the university and fellow alumni is to participate with the university chapters around the country. There are 22 chapters throughout the United States. In addition to large and active chapters, such as Parkersburg and Cincinnati, there are chapters in Hawaii, Arizona, New York, Florida and many other locations.

The chapters' primary purpose is to connect alumni in a geographic area to share experiences, stay connected with the university and in other ways to support the current students. The chapters hold various events – gatherings to share dinner and learn about activities of the university, host the president of the university and other officials when in the chapter area and share social events. Additionally, some chapters are actively holding fundraising events to award scholarships for students who are attending Marshall from the chapter's area.

A growing chapter activity is member outreach, on behalf of Marshall, to local high schools. In coordination with the Marshall Office of Admissions, chapter alumni ambassadors attend high school ceremonies. As ambassadors they recognize acceptance to Marshall and announce scholarships. This is a terrific way to extend the outreach of Marshall and create greater awareness of the fantastic opportunities at Marshall. This outreach is conducted in close cooperation with the alumni and admissions staffs at Marshall. It is a rewarding opportunity.

If you are not already involved in a chapter and are interested, please visit the chapter section on [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com). There you will find contact information for each chapter and where they are located. If there is no chapter in your area and you are interested in starting one, there is contact information for the alumni staff who can advise and assist.

The alumni website, [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com), has a wealth of information. The site provides information on many alumni events, such as the activities of Homecoming and Alumni Weekend; how to make a gift to the university, and events in other localities. Contact the alumni staff for assistance in establishing an ID and password to unlock other information about benefits to alumni.

Alumni events are a fantastic opportunity to reunite with your Marshall University family. I urge all alumni to join a chapter and participate in alumni activities. Be a recruiter and an ambassador throughout the year. Pay forward the help you received. This is a responsibility and an opportunity. Become an active alumni member and stay connected. Let people know what WE ARE MARSHALL means to you.

Thank you for your continued support of Marshall University through the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association Board of Directors hopes that each time you visit [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com), the Facebook page, or a campus or center, you learn something new about the university, your classmates, the faculty and staff. I encourage each of you to contact the board and provide your suggestions. We are here to serve you. Thank you for your continued support of the university.

Max Lederer  
 President, Marshall University Alumni Association

## ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF

**MATT HAYES**, Executive Director  
**LARRY CRUM**, Associate Director  
**ROB ELLIS**, Associate Director





# Marshall University Alumni Association hands out **RECORD NUMBER OF AWARDS** at 81st Alumni Awards Banquet

**D**uring one of the biggest nights of the year for Marshall University alumni, the university and the Marshall University Alumni Association hosted the 81st annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 31, to a capacity crowd in the Don Morris Room, recognizing some of the best and brightest Marshall has to offer.

On a record night that saw the MUAA hand out more than two dozen awards, the list of major award winners was an impressive one that saw leaders of business, NASA

engineers and other major contributors to both the university and various fields of business take the stage during the star-studded affair.

Highlighting the list of honorees at the 2018 awards banquet were Marilyn Johnson and Robert “Bob” Lang, who were named the alumnus and alumna recipients of the Marshall University Distinguished Alumni Award, MUAA’s highest honor. Other award recipients included Homer Preece and Terry Deppner Hardin, recipients of the Distinguished Service to Marshall Award; Frank Jones





and Donna Harbour, recipients of the Outstanding Community Achievement Award; Jordan Richardson, recipient of the Young Alumni Award; and a number of additional honorees.

“We are always proud to welcome friends and family of Marshall University back to the Huntington campus during a wonderful evening celebrating the achievements of this year’s slate of award recipients,” said Matt Hayes, executive director of alumni relations at Marshall University. “It is always a joy and an honor to bring these distinguished individuals back to campus for the Alumni Awards Banquet. It is our annual opportunity to remind the Marshall community of all of the great things our alumni have accomplished in their chosen professions and in their communities, while also serving as an inspiration to our current students of all of the wonderful things they can achieve in life once they leave campus.”

Johnson, a '74 graduate of Marshall University and recipient of the Marshall University Distinguished Alumna Award, is a motivational speaker and business leader. She also is the former CEO of the International Women’s Forum and former vice president of market development for IBM. Through her work, Johnson travels around the globe advancing leadership across cultures, careers and continents. She has received numerous awards including the “Corporate Supporter of Women Entrepreneurs Award” in Beijing and “The Profiles of Prominence Award” from the National Women of Achievement Inc. and also was named one of “The Top 25 Influential Black Women” by *The Network Journal Magazine* and was inducted into the YWCA of New York City’s prestigious Academy of Women Leaders.

Joining Johnson in receiving the MUAA’s highest honor is Lang, a '67



**Marilyn Johnson, recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award.**



**Robert "Bob" Lang, recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.**



**Jordan Richardson, recipient of the Young Alumni Award.**

graduate of Marshall University and recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Lang, a retired engineer for NASA, began his aerospace career right after graduation. He became the NASA lead engineer for the Lunar Module Environmental Control System following the completion of the lunar program. He later went on to spearhead many projects surrounding the Space Shuttle program including becoming director of safety and reliability at the Kennedy Space Center, director of shuttle vehicle engineering and the Chief NASA Engineer. Lang received two Exceptional Service Medals, an Outstanding Leadership Medal and the Presidential rank of Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service from NASA before his retirement in 2011.

“We couldn’t be more proud of Marilyn and Robert, along with all of our 2018 major award recipients,” Hayes said. “The impact they have had and the things they have accomplished on a national scale is humbling and awe-inspiring. We were honored to welcome these outstanding Sons and Daughters of Marshall back to Huntington.”

Other major award recipients included Homer Preece, Terry Deppner Hardin, Frank Jones, Donna Harbour and Jordan Richardson.

Homer Preece is the director of Marshall’s Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and an adjunct faculty member of three departments on the Huntington campus. He helped spearhead the growth and development of the Mid-Ohio Valley Center as a multi-facility center offering numerous degree programs in the Mid-Ohio Valley. He is joined in receiving the Distinguished Service to Marshall University Award by Terry Deppner Hardin, an energetic servant of the community who has helped orchestrate support in numerous causes including



the Marshall Artists Series, Hospice of Huntington, the Huntington Museum of Art and countless others. A clerk and chief steward of the U.S. District Court in southern West Virginia, Hardin has more than 25 years of volunteerism, much of which has directly affected Marshall University and its fine arts programs.

The Rev. Frank Jones, a pastor of the Second Mount Zion Baptist Church for over 40 years, is the Outstanding Community Achievement co-recipient. Jones has involved himself in numerous organizations in his community, including the Tug Valley Baptist Association and the local chapter of the NAACP, of which he was president on two different occasions. An educator in the Mingo County Board of Education, he has made an impact on the lives of area youth, along with heading outreach projects in his community. He is joined in receiving this award by Donna Harbour, a retired nurse with a career of nearly 50 years. Loved by her peers, Harbour has received Peer Recognition awards from Centra Health and the Hill City Chapter of the Virginia Nurses Association and was recipient of the Craddock Terry Excellence in Nursing Award. She has dedicated her life to helping others in and around her community.

Jordan Richardson, recipient of the Young Alumni Award, is an attorney and senior policy analyst at the Charles Koch Institute,



**Donna Harbour, co-recipient of the Outstanding Community Achievement Award.**



**Homer Preece (left) and Terry Hardin, co-recipients of the Distinguished Service to Marshall University Award.**



**Frank Jones, co-recipient of the Outstanding Community Achievement Award.**

where he conducts research on how criminal justice reform can improve well-being for Americans. A frequent speaker and writer on the topic of overcriminalization who has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *TIME* and *Newsweek*, among others, he was named to the *Forbes* 30-Under-30 in Law and Policy in 2018.

Other awards handed out during the Alumni Awards Banquet included the Carolyn B. Hunter Faculty Service Award, awarded to Dr. Kevin Yingling; the Cam Henderson Scholarship Award, given to Abigail

Tolbert; the Nancy Pelphrey/Herd Village Scholarship Award, given to Robert May and Tahje Houston; the Nate Ruffin Award, given to Birhane Girmay; the Janis Winkfield Award, given to Bisodun Joyce Ishola; and MUAA Club of the Year, awarded to the Marshall University Alumni of the Mid-Ohio Valley Club.

College awards presented during the weekend went to Kathryn Chezik (College of Health Professions), Diana Sole Walko (College of Business), Dr. Bobby Miller (School of Medicine), Gary Ray (College of Information Technology and Engineering), Dr. Marlayna Maynard (College of Arts and Media), Sheri Lemons (College of Science), Dr. Ancella Radford Bickley (College of Liberal Arts), Frank Blackwell (College of Education and Professional Development) and Dr. Elizabeth Canterbury (School of Pharmacy). □





## 2019 Alumni Award Nominations

Deadline for submissions is January 1, 2019.

The Alumni Association proudly recognizes achievements of distinguished alumni, friends and students by presenting awards at its annual Alumni Awards Banquet. Past honorees have included outstanding educators, successful business people, prominent scientists, sports and entertainment personalities and ordinary people with extraordinary devotion to Marshall.

**The Awards Committee makes its decision based on nominations received on or before January 1, 2019. Nominations received after that date will be considered for 2020.**

### CATEGORIES:

**Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna:** Given to Marshall alumni for outstanding national achievements in their particular field of endeavor.

**Alumnus/Alumna Community Achievement:** Given to alumni for success in their particular field of endeavor and personal contribution to their respective communities. (A Marshall alumnus/alumna is any former student who has received academic credit at Marshall University and whose class has graduated.)

**Distinguished Service:** Given for loyal and unselfish service to Marshall. This award is NOT limited to Marshall alumni.

**The Young Alumni Award:** Presented to an alum who is 35-years-old or younger, is an active member of the Alumni Association, shows outstanding achievement in his or her field of endeavor, has a personal commitment to his or her community and demonstrates service to Marshall University and its students. This award is not open to members of the MUAA board.

**The Dr. Carolyn B. Hunter Faculty Service Award:** Established to recognize contributions and to provide incentives for continued service from faculty to the community, the university and students in their respective fields.

For a list of past award winners or to submit the name of an individual you believe to be qualified as a nominee for one of the awards, go to [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com) and go to "Alumni Awards" under the "We Are" menu. This nomination form must be received in our office by the above date. The Awards Committee will review the qualifications of nominees and select the recipients.

Award winners will be asked to submit a number of photos for a video presentation during the Awards Banquet. Please make sure the nominee would be willing to submit these photos within two weeks after notification of having won the award. He/she must be able to attend the Alumni Awards Banquet in April.

Please include the following to support your nomination in order to provide the selection committee with as much information as possible:

1. An explanation of how your candidate fulfills the criteria for the award category for which he/she has been nominated;
2. The nominee's vita/résumé, including career highlights, volunteerism, honors and awards, community service, professional organizations, publications, etc.;
3. Letters of nomination detailing personal knowledge of the candidate and his/her personal and professional achievements; and
4. Other supporting documentation, such as copies of magazine and newspaper articles.

\* All categories may not be awarded each year!

I hereby nominate the following person for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee's Business/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this form with the documentation indicated above to:**

Alumni Awards Nominations  
Marshall University Alumni Association  
One John Marshall Drive  
Huntington, WV 25755-6200



# WELCOME HOME!

Marshall University is excited to honor and recognize one of its most outstanding individuals during Homecoming 2018 – Marco! The university will step back in time as Marshall University becomes your “Home on the Range” during a weeklong celebration of Marco during this year’s Homecoming festivities.

Prepare for a full week of activities as Marshall celebrates Homecoming with a western twist beginning on Monday, Oct. 15, and culminating with

the Homecoming game against the FAU Owls on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 2:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to don your Marshall gear, reunite with friends, check out the latest changes to the Huntington campus and cheer on your Thundering Herd! For a complete list of Homecoming activities, visit [www.HerdAlum.com](http://www.HerdAlum.com), and be sure to use the hashtag #HerdHomecoming when posting your images online. We hope to see you at as many events as your schedule will allow!

## Monday, Oct. 15

### OFFICE DECORATION

ALL WEEK | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY HUNTINGTON CAMPUS

Campus offices are asked to decorate using the Homecoming theme. The offices are judged on Thursday of Homecoming Week and prizes awarded at the Friday, Oct. 19, Picnic on the Plaza. Prizes are awarded in multiple categories for large and small offices.

### UNITY WALK

4 P.M. | PERIMETER OF HUNTINGTON CAMPUS

All students, teams, organizations, residence halls, faculty, staff and community members are invited to walk the campus perimeter and show their Marshall pride!

## Thursday, Oct. 18

### HOMECOMING PARADE

6:30 P.M. | DOWNTOWN HUNTINGTON

Floats, marching bands and everything you love about parades fill the air on a Thursday night!



### PEP RALLY & BONFIRE

7:30 P.M. | HARLESS FIELD

A new tradition! Students and alums enjoy a massive bonfire with plenty of entertainment and activities featuring university coaches, cheerleaders and team members, the Marshall University Marching Thunder, float awards and much more!

**MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
HOMECOMING 2018  
OCTOBER 20**

# HOME ON THE RANGE

## A CELEBRATION OF MARCO

Marshall's largest and most exciting on-campus Homecoming party! The Marshall University Alumni Association throw a party with free food, drinks, music, games and lots of fun for students, faculty and alumni!

7 P.M. | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY  
REC CENTER

## HOMECOMING PRIDE GALA

Dancing, drinks, food and fun to benefit the Marshall University Student Scholarship for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

## HOMEcoming STAMPEDE 5K

Students, faculty, alumni and Marshall University supporters are invited to come together for a run around campus with multiple age groups and prizes.

## 11 A.M. | HARLESS FIELD

ALL are invited to this wonderful tailgating experience! Enjoy great food, hang with friends, play tailgating games and enjoy performances by the Marching Thunder, Marshall University Cheerleaders and greetings from special guests. Don't miss the famous Alumni Tailgate prior to the game!

2:30 P.M. | JOAN C. EDWARDS STADIUM

Marshall battles the FAU Owls in the annual Homecoming Game!

7 P.M. | MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER PLAZA

A Homecoming tradition featuring one of the best step shows around! (In case of rain, the Step Show will be moved to the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.)





# From GEORGIA to GERMANY

## Phillip Gamble's Crazy Journey

**A**s the old saying goes, you never quite know where life is going to take you. Just ask Phillip Gamble.

Gamble was born in New York, raised in Georgia, and played college football in West Virginia right here at Marshall University. But if you would have told him that, upon leaving Huntington for the great big world ahead of him, he would end up playing football and mentoring children in Germany, well, he probably would have called you crazy.

But that is exactly where life has taken him.

"Prior to coming to Germany, I was invited to the U.S.A. versus Europe football game in Warsaw, Poland, which was a total culture shock for me, having never been out of the United States," Gamble said. "I would say the jet lag was the worst feeling ever. After the game, I was contacted by Dale Heffron, who is a very successful coach here in Germany, to come over to finish the rest of the season with the club. I am now going on my sixth year in Germany. I spent my first four years in Bielefeld, where I met my fiancée, Stephanie. If you would have told me 10 years ago I would be playing football in Germany, speaking German, marrying a German woman, I would have laughed at you. But I guess, as they say, everything in life happens for a reason."

Gamble, who played linebacker for The Herd back in the mid-2000s, is currently a member of the Hildesheim Invaders of the German Football League, the highest

division of American football in Germany. During his time in Europe, Gamble has played on a number of teams in Germany, becoming somewhat of a star in the league as a running back and linebacker.

"In Germany we play by college rules and you can only have two American players on the field at the same time for each team. Most teams try to recruit players that are classified as dual citizenship, which means most of them went to high school or college in the United States or Canada, but have European passports," Gamble said. "I have had the pleasure of coaching and playing for three clubs here, the Bielefeld Bulldogs for two years, along with Ashton Hall, and Paderborn Dolphins, in addition to playing for Hildesheim.

"The fans are great here in Germany. As American football continues to grow here in Europe, I think one day they will have more NFL games over here during the season. For most of the Germans, they are playing football as a hobby, meaning they aren't receiving a salary. They are playing for the love of the game and it's a different brotherhood than, say, soccer, which they all played growing up. I would compare the GFL to the same level as a Division 2 school back in the states. There are some pretty good and competitive teams, so the more money a club has, the more things they can do."

Away from the field, Gamble has also recently co-founded BSG ICE 360°, a company aimed at inspiring, cultivating and educating young students and teaching



**Gamble plays running back and linebacker for the Hildensheim Invaders in the German Football League, where the majority of games are played during summer months.**

them that, through hard work and dedication, anything is possible.

"I recently co-founded a company called BSG ICE 360°, which stands for Inspire, Cultivate and Educate. We go into different schools all over Germany to show students that anything that they would like to do in life is possible, while also speaking and teaching English," Gamble said. "It is a great opportunity to show students different cultures so they aren't just judging Americans based on what they see on the television or social media. Our main goal is to inspire students by creating a modern and practical way of teaching the English language and instilling confidence in children and motivating them beyond their comfort zone to explore their full potential. We also hope to cultivate young minds by planting seeds of curiosity and drive to explore the world outside of their hometowns. And we ultimately want to educate them to real-life experiences and help them gain a whole new perspective on the world."

But through it all, through the travel and the incredible

journey he has undertaken, Gamble says he has never forgotten his roots and treasures every moment spent on the field and in the classroom representing the Green and White.

"Originally I committed to Auburn University, but did not meet the academic requirements to be rewarded with a full scholarship. So, after meeting with Coach Pruett in Huntington and learning about the history and great players to come before me, I chose Marshall," Gamble said. "I wanted to be a part of something special and, to this day, I still call Huntington my second home. I've met some wonderful people in West Virginia while also becoming a mentor to some players that were in middle school at the time.

"I have so many great memories, from my graduation in 2009, to being a captain my senior year, to watching the creation of the *We Are Marshall* movie. I will never forget my time in Huntington and will always consider it my home away from home." □



# Marshall has given you so much. Now is the time to give back.

Support Marshall University with a gift and discover the many benefits of becoming an active member of **YOUR** Alumni Association!

## Discover the many benefits of active membership in the Marshall University Alumni Association

- National and local discounts!
- National clubs and MU activities around the globe!
- Networking opportunities!
- Keep in touch with friends, classmates, professors and administrators!
- Be in the know with all things happening at Marshall University through your subscription to Marshall Magazine, monthly newsletters and special social media opportunities!
- Knowledge that your money is contributing to the continued growth of Marshall University!

## A financial gift in the amount of your choice activates your membership.

For more information, contact the Marshall University Alumni Association at (304) 696-3134 or [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu)



Marshall University  
Alumni Association

[www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com) • [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu)



## Marshall University Alumni Association Board of Directors Nomination Form

The Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for 10 of its 30 elected positions on the Board of Directors. The term of office is three years beginning July 1, 2019.

### Qualifications:

- Must be an active member of the Alumni Association through an annual gift to the Marshall University Foundation Inc.
- Be energetic and enthusiastic in support of the university and concerned with its growth and potential.
- Be available to attend three on-campus board meetings during the year, and be willing to assist in his/her home area in promoting Marshall and the Alumni Association.
- Nominations must be received by April 1, 2019, to the Office of Alumni Relations
- Attach nominee's curriculum vitae/résumé.

Please complete this biographical form in conjunction with your nominee in order to provide the nominating committee with the necessary information to assist them in the selection process.

Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Reasons for Nomination \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Years served on Board (*list dates if previously served*) \_\_\_\_\_

We are very interested in how the nominee serves his or her community, and any professional awards received. Include civic groups the nominee belongs to, volunteerism and community service projects in which the nominee has been involved, honors and awards he or she has received, and professional organizations in which the nominee is a member (please list all pertinent information to assist the nomination committee, including dates and offices held).

Only a maximum of five items would be listed on the ballot. Please list in order of preference.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Self-nominations will be accepted. The MUAA Nomination and Election Committee will screen the nominations and select no fewer than 10 or more than 20 for the ballot to run for the 10 director's positions. You can return your nomination by e-mailing it as an Adobe PDF document to [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu), faxing it to (304) 696-2299 or mailing it to:  
MUAA Board Nominations, Erickson Alumni Center, One John Marshall Dr., Huntington, WV 25755-6200

**For more information, call the Alumni Association at 304-696-2901.**



## 1970s

### Dr. Julia Keller

(B.A. '76, M.A. '81) published the seventh novel in her Bell Elkins series, *Bone on Bone*, released in August 2018. Keller earned a Pulitzer Prize for her work at the *Chicago Tribune*, and has had great success with her series of novels about crime and culture in West Virginia.



**Charles Rappold** (B.A. '74) endowed the Charles and Victoria Rappold Scholarship. He was a successful attorney for the Bank of New York for nearly two decades and served as vice chairman and COO of the Convergen Group before his retirement in 2014.

## 1980s

**Eric Douglas** (B.A. '89) released his new novel, *Water Crisis: Day Zero*, which is the tenth story in his Mike Scott series.

### Max Lederer

(B.A. '82) created the Max Lederer Scholarship. Max is president of the Marshall University Alumni Association and publisher for *Stars and Stripes*, a news source for the U.S. military community worldwide.



### Dr. Montserrat Miller

(B.A. '83, M.A. '88) was named executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy at Marshall. She is a professor of history at Marshall and a past recipient of the West Virginia Professor of the Year award.



### Leah Payne

(B.A. '84, M.A.J. '11) was recently named director of communications for Marshall.



### Beverly Sharp

(B.A. '80) is the new criminal justice program coordinator at Ashland Community and Technical College in Ashland, Kentucky.

### Marc Williams

(B.A. '82) created the Marc Williams Scholarship. Marc is the managing partner of Nelson Mullins' West Virginia offices.



## 1990s

### Lesley Epperly Cottrell (M.A.

'97) has been named director of the Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia.

**Christina Mullins** (B.A. '95, M.A. '97) has been named Director of Maternal, Child and Family Health with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services.

### Dr. Jennifer Robinette

(B.A. '93, M.A. '96) earned the Innovative Use of Technology Award for her integration of collaborative community applications in her classes. She is an associate professor at Marist College in New York.



## 2000s

**Dr. Emily Selby-Nelson** (M.A. '08, Psy.D. '11) received the American Psychological Association Citizen Psychologist Presidential Citation for

dedication, advocacy and action addressing mental health access, quality of care and quality of life in rural communities.

She is a clinical psychologist with Cabin Creek Health Systems.



### Dr. Todd

**Snyder** (B.A. '04, M.A. '06)

published a volume of stories, *12 Rounds in Lo's Gym*. The book recounts his

experiences working with his father in a makeshift boxing training gym in southern West Virginia.



## 2010s

**Desmond Groves** (B.A. '16) was named the digital content coordinator for the Charleston Area Medical Center Health System in Charleston, West Virginia.

**Jordan Richardson** (B.A. '11) was named to *Forbes Magazine's* 30 Under 30 for his work in law and policy making. He is a senior policy analyst for the Charles Koch Institute, focusing on criminal justice reform.

**Craig Root** (B.A. '12) who has more than 18 years of teaching and golf management experience, has been named golf coach at Hilbert College in Hamburg, New York. A Lockport, New York native, Root has managed and served as a golf professional at Rothland Golf Club, Dande Farms and Glen Oak.

**Jared Wyrick** (B.A. '09, M.A. '11) became director of rule making for the Joint Committee on Government and Finance – Rule Making Review Division of the West Virginia Legislature. He has served in a variety of staff positions at the Legislature since graduating from Marshall.

## in memoriam

**Susan Booton** (M.A. '10) died July 12, 2018, at the Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House, Huntington. She had served as a clinical faculty member in the university's School of Nursing since 2009. She was a nurse practitioner and worked at St. Mary's Medical Center for more than 30 years. She was a member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church.

**Darrell K. Gilliam**, M.D., 89, died July 27, 2018. He was born and raised in Wise County, Virginia, where he attended a one-room elementary school. He became an Eagle Scout and then graduated from high school in Madison, West Virginia. He attended Marshall and received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Richmond. Following his graduation, he married the former Nancy E. Giannotti and was then drafted into the U.S. Army, 43rd Infantry and sent to Augsburg, Germany, where he ran the Army-sponsored German Youth Organization for two years. Returning to Richmond, he enrolled in the Medical College of Virginia and graduated in 1959. He practiced family medicine in Chesterfield County for over 40 years, beginning in a small office over a grocery store at Broad Rock and Walmsley Boulevards.

**Dr. Jacqueline M. Guttman**, associate professor of modern languages at Marshall University from 1980 to 1997, died at her home in Tucson, Arizona, on February 19, 2018, surrounded by family and friends. A native of France, she received a baccalaureate with honors from the Lycée Fenelon in Paris, followed by bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of New Mexico. She taught at the University of New Mexico, Winona State University in Minnesota and Millersville State College in Pennsylvania before coming to Marshall. While at Marshall, she established a chapter of the Alliance Française and advanced the foreign exchange program. She promoted

local celebration of the bicentennial of the French Revolution in 1989 by setting up an exhibit of French culture and history in the public library, having the day declared a city holiday and convincing the mayor to fly the French flag at city hall. She was devoted to her students, in whom she inspired a love of French language, culture and literature. In 1991, she was made a knight of the Ordre des Palmes Academiques, a prestigious award given by the French government, for her contributions to French education in the university and promotion of French culture in the community. A representative of the French Embassy presented her with the medal at a ceremony in the university president's home. She moved to Tucson upon her retirement to be closer to her family and the desert southwest and saguaro cacti that she loved. She continued to teach French informally and was active in French language and cultural clubs until the end of her life. She is survived by her children, J. Michele Guttman of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Jeoffrey H. Guttman of Seattle, Washington.

**Wanda Lillian (Fields) Neudorfer-Pack** (B.A. '63) died March 3, 2018, at St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville, Ohio. A graduate of South Point High School, she completed her undergraduate work at Marshall, earned her master's degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and pursued her doctorate at Penn State. She taught at Paul Blazer High School in Ashland, Kentucky; Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, North Carolina; Northridge High School in Johnstown, Ohio; and Gahanna-Lincoln High School in Gahanna, Ohio, from which she retired. She was a member of the ORTA (Ohio Retired Teachers Assoc.) and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International — Delta Mu Chapter. In addition to teaching, she was passionate about music and was an accomplished organist. At one point, she was the organist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Huntington.

Please share your news with us by sending it to the Marshall University Alumni Association; One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. *Preference will be given to active alumni*; other news will be printed as space allows and should be received within six months of the event. For more Class Notes, go to [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com).





## A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

### PIECES TO THE PUZZLE

Greetings, Fellow Alumni and Friends of Marshall University:

How well do you remember your first time on campus?

Were you scared? Hopeful? Overwhelmed? Excited?

What about your last time on campus as a student?

Everyone has a different portrait in mind of what it was like to step foot on campus for the very first time – and the very last. The college experience is much more than just an education. It is the little moments that exist between that exhausting first day and that sigh-of-relief, what-do-I-do-now last.

That is what makes alumni relations so much fun.

We in the Office of Alumni Relations are tasked with tapping into that raw emotion of the college experience and forming messages, events and programs that help bring you back to your days at Marshall University and help make it easier to stay connected, return to campus and, for a few brief moments at least, be a student again.

We receive visitors almost daily here in the Erickson Alumni Center, located on the first floor of the beautiful Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall, who just want to reconnect and reminisce. Folks who enjoy our vast archive of old yearbooks (amazingly dating back to 1905), photos dating back to the 1800s, memorabilia and more, all hoping to catch a spark of those few young adult years where your future was shaped by a few professors, a handful of friends and a bonding experience that is unlike anything else you will find out in the real world.

But we can't do it alone.

Every story shared with us and every item of memorabilia that passes through these halls is a piece to a puzzle that tells the story of Marshall University. And we welcome each and every piece of that puzzle – no matter how small.

That is why we encourage each of you, fellow alumni of this great university, to stay in touch with your alumni staff, so that we can better help you stay connected while also adding another piece to that puzzle. Not only is it good for the soul to share your experiences, but it helps us better shape programs and ideas to make your alumni experience as rich as possible, while also building a better future for current and future students who are the next generation of proud Herd Alums!

So how can you help? Reach out. Send us your story. Update your information. Register a class note. Just keep in touch. There are multiple ways for you to do that, from our official e-mail [alumni@marshall.edu](mailto:alumni@marshall.edu) to our many social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. But the starting point for all of that is to visit YOUR alumni website, [www.herdalum.com](http://www.herdalum.com). There you will find everything you need to connect with us and stay connected.

As we dive into another semester, another football season, and another homecoming and prepare to welcome another group of alumni in the fall and spring, help us help you.

And remember, you are always welcome to stop in and say hi. Our doors are always open!

Until next time, Godspeed and GO HERD!

Best Regards,

Rob, Matt and Larry





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